

REPORT ON THE MASTER THESIS

IEPS – International Economic and Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University

Title of the thesis:	The Challenge of Modern Maritime Piracy for International Community
Author of the thesis:	Gabriel Szuma
Referee (incl. titles):	PhDr.Mgr. Jakub Landovský Ph.D.

Remark: It is a standard at the FSV UK that the Referee's Report is at least 500 words long. In case you will assess the thesis as "non-defendable", please explain the concrete reasons for that in detail.

SUMMARY OF POINTS AWARDED (for details, see below):

CATEGORY	POINTS
<i>Theoretical background (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Contribution (max. 20)</i>	17
<i>Methods (max. 20)</i>	17
<i>Literature (max. 20)</i>	19
<i>Manuscript form (max. 20)</i>	19
TOTAL POINTS (max. 100)	91
The proposed grade (1-2-3-4)	1

You can even use a decimal point (e.g. giving the grade of 2.5 for 60 points).

Comments of the referee on the thesis highlights and shortcomings (following the 5 numbered aspects of your assessment indicated below).

1) Theoretical background: Author is well aware of erosion of state, as the sole container for power in the world. Contemporary situation, in which state is not the only actor of international relations, brings forth several interesting theoretical concepts, which strive to describe and explain the new reality. One of the most prominent theories is the New Middle Ages Theory, which enables Author to describe the changing role of the state in the world regions stricken by piracy (Strait of Malacca, Horn of Africa, and Gulf of Guinea). The New Middle Ages theory is an appropriate theoretical background for the exploration of piracy in the current state of the world.

2) Contribution: The work is very contemporary, and even though, there are several more in-depth studies of history of piracy like *Life under Jolly Roger*, from Gabriel Kuhn, this work brings very acute analysis of the contemporary pirates and critical discussion, which is worth reading not only for the specialist from the area of International Relations or International Law.

3) Methods: Methods include analyzes of different recent counter piracy initiatives on the suppression and emergence of maritime crime, and the hypothesis is constructed around possible correlation between failed states and piracy and around interesting comparisons between costs and benefits of pirate endeavors. The methods used in this Master thesis are sufficient for the topic and for the standards in human sciences.

4) Literature: The author uses wide array of theoretical literature including authors like Kraska, Marley, Hansen, Twyman-Ghoshal, Bromley, Bahadur, Heller-Roazen, Murphy, Rahman, Snoddon and Payne and also credible documents such as resolutions of the UN, sources of international law or statistics of organizations like International Maritime Organisation, International Maritime Bureau and various UN agencies like UNCTAD or UN Office on Drug and Crime.

5) Manuscript form: Clear concise structure and solid use of language. Seven chapters are well written and the graphic layout is very fitting. The appendixes are filled with relevant maps, graphs and tables, which further enhance the obvious qualities of this work.

For the above mentioned reasons I propose this thesis for defense and recommend grade "A" - excellent.

DATE OF EVALUATION:

26.01.2015



Referee Signature

The referee should give comments to the following requirements:

1) THEORETICAL BACKGROUND: Can you recognize that the thesis was guided by some **theoretical fundamentals** relevant for this thesis topic? Were some important theoretical concepts omitted? Was the theory used in the thesis consistently incorporated with the topic and hypotheses tested?

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

2) CONTRIBUTION: Evaluate if the author presents **original ideas** on the topic and aims at demonstrating **critical thinking** and ability to draw conclusions based on the knowledge of relevant theory and relevant empirical material. Is there a distinct **value added** of the thesis (relative to knowledge of a university-educated person interested in given topic)? Did the author explain **why** the observed phenomena occurred? Were the policy implications well founded?

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

3) METHODS: Are the **hypotheses** for this study clearly stated, allowing their further verification and testing? Are the theoretical explanations, empirical material and **analytical tools** used in the thesis relevant to the research question being investigated, and adequate to the aspiration level of the study? Is the thesis **topic comprehensively analyzed** and does the thesis not make trivial or irrelevant detours off the main body stated in the thesis proposal? More than 10 points signal an exceptional work, **which requires your explanation "why" it is so**.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

4) LITERATURE REVIEW: The thesis demonstrates author's full understanding and **command of recent literature**. The author quotes relevant literature in a proper way and disposes with a representative bibliography. (Remark: references to Wikipedia, websites and newspaper articles are a sign of **poor research**). If they dominate you cannot give more than 8 points. References to books published by prestigious publishers and articles in renowned journals give much better impression.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

5) MANUSCRIPT FORM: The thesis is **clear and well structured**. The author uses appropriate language and style, including academic **format** for quotations, graphs and tables. The text effectively refers to graphs and tables, is easily readable and **stimulates thinking**.

Strong Average Weak
20 10 0 points

Overall grading scheme at FSV UK:

TOTAL POINTS	GRADE	Czech grading	US grading
81 – 100	1	= excellent	= A
61 – 80	2	= good	= B
51 – 60	3	= satisfactory	= C
41 – 50	3	= satisfactory	= D
0 – 40	4	= fail	= not recommended for defence